

Town Of Bedford Commuter Parking Incentive for Hybrid Vehicles Frequently Asked Questions

Q) Why is the Town of Bedford offering a Parking Incentive to owners of hybrid vehicles?

A) The Town of Bedford encourages energy efficiency in all community-based activities to help meet our goal of reducing energy use and GHG emissions 20% by 2020. Transportation in our community makes up 35% of total Green House Gas (GHG) emissions of our town. According to the EPA, hybrid vehicles offer the highest miles per gallon (MPG) efficiency in most size classes of passenger cars and trucks. If hybrid vehicles with a rating of 35MPG replaced 500 conventional cars rated at 20 MPG, 133,140 gallons of gasoline would be saved and 1,253 metric tons of GHG emissions would be avoided annually.

Q) Why does my neighbor, who owns a hybrid SUV that gets 20 MPG qualify for the parking incentive, while I made the decision to own a more fuel-efficient non-hybrid car that gets 30 MPG and I don't qualify? Shouldn't our town goal be to encourage more fuel efficient vehicles – hybrid or not?

A) It will always be true that smaller cars, regardless of powertrain, will get better fuel economy than a larger car but personal needs combined with fuel economy performance often determine the individual choice of a larger or smaller vehicle. When deciding to purchase a vehicle, the town would like to provide an incentive to purchase the highest MPG vehicle in each size class of vehicle. In the most popular EPA size classes, the Hybrid choice offers the best MPG.

Q) Is this Incentive Program really effective if it encourages residents to purchase hybrid vehicles and then park them at the train station all day, instead of driving them in lieu of their less efficient vehicles?

A) A resident applying for a parking permit receives this incentive simply by owning a Hybrid vehicle. The Town Board and the Town Energy Advisory Panel recommends identifying which vehicle should be driven more often by comparing MPG efficiency of each car in your fleet and then driving the more efficient car more frequently. This will further help reduce our community GHG emissions and help meet our goal of a 20% reduction by 2020.

Q) I am planning to buy a hybrid when my current car comes off lease in a few months. Can I take advantage of the Parking Incentive at that time?

A) As a resident, you may apply for the incentive at the time when you apply for your annual commuter parking permit.